

LOUISIANA TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS FUND - PROGRESS REPORT

March 1st, 1999

I DEPARTMENT/AGENCY: Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

II PROJECT TITLE:
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Web Site Multimedia Project

III PROJECT LEADER:
Lyle M. Soniat, Ph.D. , Administrator
LDWF Information & Education Division
P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge LA 70898-9000
Phone (225) 765-2916
e-mail soniat_lm@wlf.state.la.us

IV DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

This is a project intended to provide an interactive medium for the dissemination of wildlife education topics and information to users in Louisiana and other states. Streamed audio and video will deliver information to the public in the form of video news releases, radio show rebroadcasts, interviews, video tours and species profile videos. This service will greatly enhance the Agencies current system of information dissemination which involves static, non-interactive web pages, printed media and a weekly radio show. Use of the internet in this way has been demonstrated to dramatically increase audience figures while also cutting mailing costs. This project will also provide an internet chatroom which will be available to grade school students from their classrooms. This chatroom will host live discussions on topics such as wildlife conservation and species identification with biologists on hand to answer questions. In addition, the audio and video streams will include materials suitable for use in the classroom.

V PROJECT STATUS

- A. The project is in the preliminary phase. Although the proposal had designated a start date of Dec. 1st, this proved to be overly optimistic because (1) the MOU was not completed as of Dec.1st, and (2) the proposed time schedule had not considered that an RFP would have to be written and issued for the Consulting Services Contract.
- B. Accomplishments to date have been (1) the Project Leader formed an Implementation Team consisting of himself, Andrew Vaughan of the I&E Divison, who is the ‘webmaster’, and David Dousay of the IS Section, Office of Management and Finance, who is the technical advisor. (2) The RFP for Consulting Services was prepared by a team whose members are Vaughan, Jim Patton (Undersecretary), Al Brown, (IS Director) and Janice Sharkey (Contracts Administrator).

- C. Only problem encountered thus far has been the procedural delay in getting started.
- D. The proposal called for an implementation timetable beginning on December 1st, 1998. As described above, this start date was not met. Because of the lead times necessary to get the consulting work scheduled and because it is important that the first chatroom session be held during the school year, the new start date has been set for 4/1/99. The new timetable has also been changed to show five phases instead of four, and a six-month duration instead of four. During the development of the RFP it was determined that original Phase I, which involves heavy use of the consultant, could not be accomplished in one month as originally scheduled. The phase was divided, and the training/implementation schedule was extended to two months and has become Phase II, while the educational design part of the original Phase I remains as the new Phase I. The new schedule is as follows:

Phase I-A (1 month) to begin 4/1/99: Subjects for the first chatroom session will be determined and audio/video streams, photographs and press releases and features will be compiled.

Phase I-B (2 months) to begin 5/3/99: All training, installation of software and configuration of server and connections will be completed by the end of this phase.

Phase II (1 month) to begin 7/1/99: Encoding of audio and video will begin. By the end of this phase, weekly radio shows will be available to web site users. Material for chatroom sessions will continue to be compiled. Video streams will begin to accompany some news releases and features. More video streams will be added.

Phase III (1 month) to begin 8/1/99: An archive of all radio shows will be built in RealAudio streams and made available to web site users by the end of the phase. A prototype for the chatroom will be performed and a date will be set for the first operational chatroom session. Uploading of video streams, new releases, images and audio streams related to the first chatroom subject will begin. The date of the first chatroom will be advertised and recruitment of participants will begin.

Phase IV (1 month) to begin 9/1/99: Uploading of video streams, news releases, images and audio streams related to the first chatroom session will be completed. The first chatroom session will be held

VI COST VS. BUDGET

	<u>Category</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Projected Surplus</u>
A.	Equipment	\$10,380	\$ none	none as yet
B.	Software	\$ 7,973	\$ none	none as yet
C.	Telecommunications	\$27,000	\$ none	none as yet
D.	Professional/ Contract Services	\$22,057	\$ none	none as yet
E.	Other Costs	\$ none	\$ none	not applicable
		=====	=====	=====
	Total Project Cost	\$67,410	\$ none	\$ none as yet

VII ITEMIZED EXPENSES AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS INCURRED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD

No expenses or financial obligations were incurred during this reporting period.

